



Office of
Navajo
Government
Development



Office of Navajo Government Development and Commission on Navajo Government Development



Office of
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Development



Purpose

The Office was established for the purpose of assisting the Commission by making recommendations for reform that is necessary to ensure an accountable and responsible government and conduct long range comprehensive planning, evaluation, and development of goals to enhance a government that accommodates the Navajo People.



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Office and Commission

The purpose of the Commission and Office is to review and evaluate all aspects of the existing government structure of the Navajo Nation including laws, rules and regulations, practices, functions, goals and objectives; and to develop recommendations and proposals for alternative forms of government for consideration and adoption by the Navajo People through a referendum vote.



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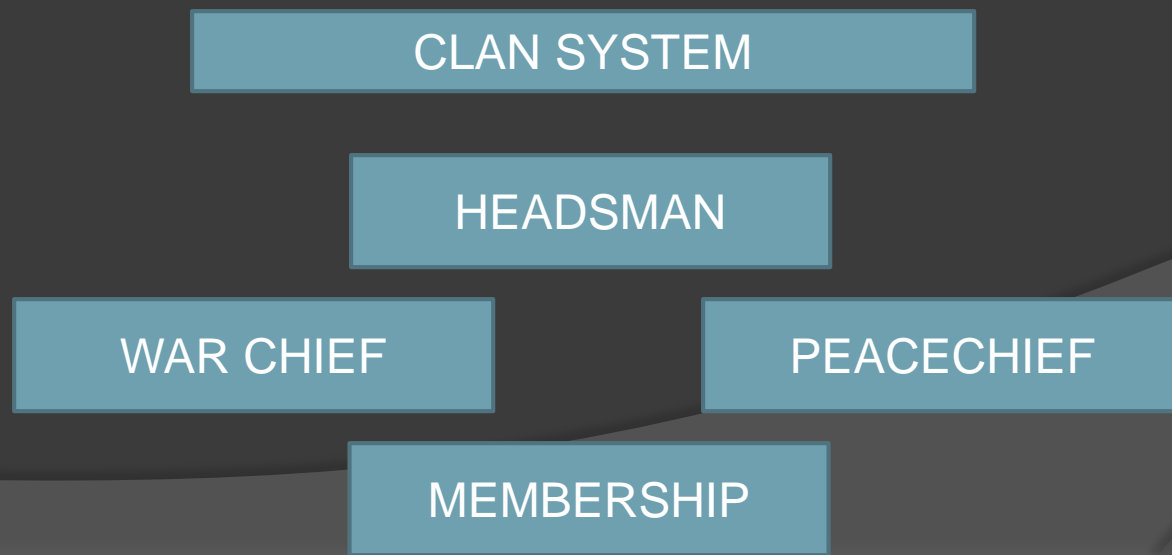
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Navajo Government Historical Events

- ⦿ Pre-Hweedli
 - 16th – 18th Century
- ⦿ American Encroachment, War & Conquest
 - 1800s
- ⦿ Hweedli
 - 1863
 - Treaty of 1868
- ⦿ 1920-1925:
 - Navajo Nation Council
- ⦿ 1930s:
 - Federal Assimilation Policies
- ⦿ 1940-1960s:
 - Constitutional Attempt
 - Navajo Bill of Rights
- ⦿ 1970s:
 - Indian Self-Determination Era
- ⦿ 1980-1990s:
 - Navajo Government Reform
- ⦿ 1990-2007:
 - Local Governance Initiatives
- ⦿ 2009:
 - Navajo Nation Council Reduction

Navajo Nation Government: Pre - Hweeldii

- Navajo Na'ha'ta in existence since time immemorial
- Clan System Type of Government
 - Designated Headman to lead their band in different geographical areas of the reservation



Navajo Nation Government: Treaty of 1868

- Government to Government Agreement between United States and the Navajo People
- Government Officials: Commissioners, Agent, U.S. Military Officials approval from Navajo Tribe.
- Navajo Headman Chief, Chief Manuelito, Chief Barbacito & others



Navajo Nation Government: Oil Discovery

- 1921: Oil & Gas was discovered on Navajo Reservation.
- Treaty of 1868 -Oil Leasing provision approval from Navajo Tribe.
- U.S. Gov't need outlet to please outside Oil Company.
- 1922: Business Council was established for sole purpose to approve Oil & Gas Leases.
- August 18, 1923: Navajo Tribal Council established with Henry Chee Dodge elected as first Chairman

Navajo Nation Government: 1930s

- ◎ 1934: Wheeler-Howard Act known as Indian Reorganization Act (IRA)
 - Allows tribe to consider establishing a tribal constitution as their government.
- ◎ 1934: Fearing another livestock reduction, Navajo people rejects IRA government.
- ◎ 1938: Secretary of Interior approves *Rules* governing Tribal Council Chapter I says “*Tribal Council shall be Governing Body of Navajo Tribe*”
- ◎ November 8, 1938: Henry Taliman seated as first tribal chairman

Navajo Nation Government: 1930s

● CONSTITUTION

- 1936-37 Constitution Attempt: Rejected due to concerns of unrest.
- 1953: Tribe submit another Constitution and was never approved by Secretary of Interior.
- 1968: Another Tribal Constitution written and never submitted to Navajo People



Navajo Nation Government: 1980s

- ◎ 1982- Government Reform Movement
 - Chairman Peterson Zah: Return authority back to Council & local communities
- ◎ 1985- Judicial Reform
 - Create NN Supreme Court and abolish Navajo Appellate Court. Make Supreme Court independent branch
- ◎ Nao receives Administration for Native Americans (ANA) grants for government reform projects.

Navajo Nation Government: 1989 Major Changes

- ◉ Chairman MacDonald placed on administrative leave
- ◉ Window Rock Riot (Civil unrest)
- ◉ Three Branch Government
 - (Too much power vested in Chairman)
- ◉ Title 2 passed by Navajo Tribal Council with 88 Navajo Tribal Council



Navajo Nation Government: 1989 Title 2 Amendment

- Legislative Branch
- Executive Branch
- Judicial Branch



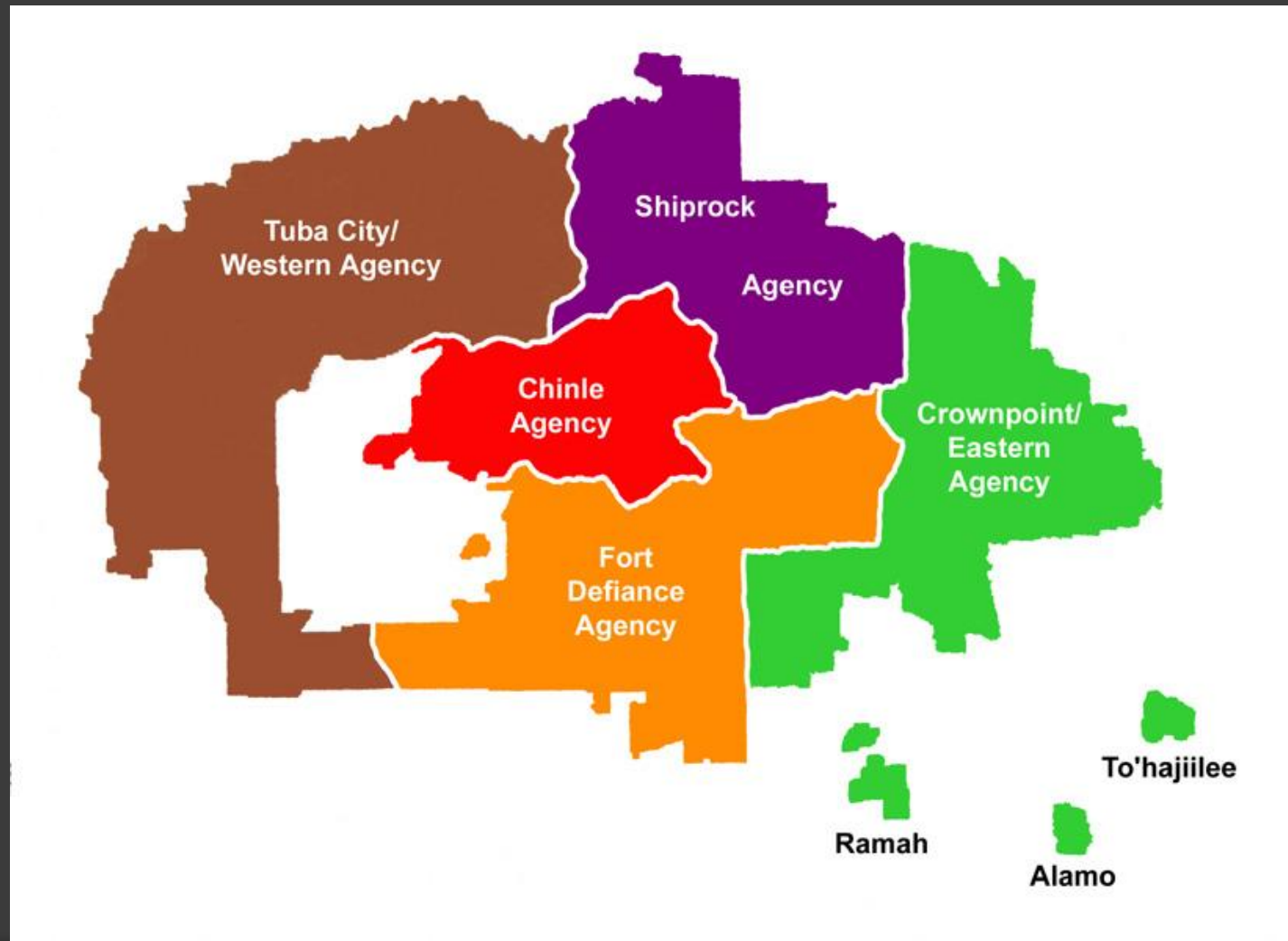
Navajo Nation Government: 1989 Title 2 Amendment

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- Navajo Nation Council
- Legislative Service & Counsel
- ONGD, OAG, NEA, E&R, Others



Navajo Nation Agencies



Navajo Nation Government:

23rd Navajo Nation Council

◎ Eastern Navajo Agency

- ***Delegate Leonard Tsosie:***
 - Whitehorse Lake, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Counselor, Ojo Encino, Littlewater, Casamero Lake, BacaPrewitt
- ***Delegate Jonathan Perry:***
 - Whiterock, Lake Valley, Huerfano, Nageezi, Nahodishguish, Crownpoint, Becenti.
- ***Delegate Seth Damon:***
 - Red Rock, Baahaali, Rock Springs, Chichiltah, Manuelito & Tsayatoh.
- ***Delegate Edmund Yazzie:***
 - Churchrock, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Mariano Lake, Iyanbito.
- ***Delegate Norman Begay:***
 - Alamo, Tohajiilee & Ramah.

Navajo Nation Government: 23rd Navajo Nation Council

◎ Northern Navajo Agency

- ***Delegate LoRenzo Bates:***

- Newcomb, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Upper Fruitland, San Juan, Lake, Nenahnezad & Tse'Daa'Kaan.

- ***Delegate Amber Crotty:***

- Sheep Springs, TwoGreyHills/Toadlena, Tse'alnaozt'ii, Beclabito, Red Valley & Gadiiahi/To'Koi.

- ***Delegate Tom Chee:***

- Shiprock

- ***Delegate Davis Filfred:***

- Aneth, Red Mesa, Tolikan, Teenospos, Mexican Water.

Navajo Nation Government: 23rd Navajo Nation Council

◎ Ft. Defiance Agency

- ***Delegate Benjamin Bennett:***
 - Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill
- ***Delegate Jonathan Hale:***
 - Oaksprings, St. Michaels
- ***Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr.:***
 - Klagetoh, Wide Ruins, Houck, Lupton & Nahata Dziil.
- ***Delegate Lee Jack, Sr.:***
 - Dilcon, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone & Greasewood.
- ***Delegate Mel R. Begay:***
 - Twin Lakes, Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Tohatchi & Naschitti.
- ***Delegate Alton Shepherd:***
 - Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kinlichee, Steamboat

Navajo Nation Government: 23rd Navajo Nation Council

◉ Chinle Agency

- ***Delegate Leonard Pete:***
 - ◉ Chinle..
- ***Delegate Nelson Begay:***
 - ◉ Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaile/Wheatfield, Lukachukai, Tse Ch'izhi.
- ***Delegate Kee Allen Begaye:***
 - ◉ Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood & Low Mountain.
- ***Delegate Dwight Witherspoon:***
 - ◉ Hardrock, Forest Lake, Pinon, Black Mesa & Whippoorwill.

Navajo Nation Government: 23rd Navajo Nation Council

◎ Western Navajo Agency

- ***Delegate Nathaniel Brown:***

- Chilchinbeto, Kayenta & Dinnehotso.

- ***Delegate Walter Phelps:***

- Cameron, Tolani Lake, Leupp, Birdsprings, Coalmine Canyon

- ***Delegate Tuchoney Slim:***

- Coppermine, K'aai'to, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake, Bodaway/Gap

- ***Delegate Otto Tso:***

- Tuba City

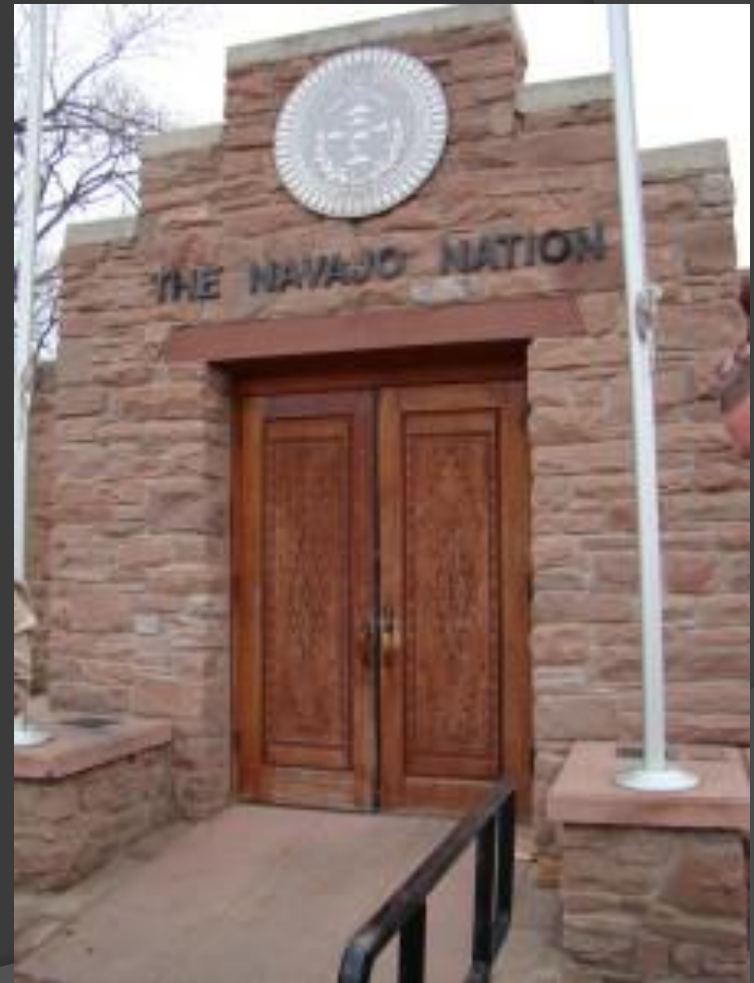
- ***Vacant:***

- Tsah Bii Kin, Navajo Mountain, Shonto, Oljato

Navajo Nation Government: 1989 Title 2 Amendment

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Office of the President & Vice President
- Chief of Staff & Staff
- Divisions & Programs
- 110 Chapters



Navajo Nation Government: 1989 Title 2 Amendment

⦿ JUDICIAL BRANCH

- Supreme Court
- Judicial Branch Staff
- District Courts
- Peacemaking Court



Navajo Nation Government: 1990s

◎ 1995:

- Local Empowerment Act: President Albert Hale advocated for local empowerment and downsizing central government.

◎ 1998:

- Local Governance Act (LGA) was passed by NNC

◎ 1998:

- After chapter becomes LGA Certified, can exercise local chapter authorities

Navajo Nation Government: 2000s

- ◎ Chapter Government
 - 43 LGA Certified Chapters
 - 100 – Community Land Use Plan Certified Chapters
 - 7 Alternative Forms of Government Chapters
- ◎ 2009: Navajo Nation Council Reduction
- ◎ Regionalization-for regional planning
- ◎ Decentralization-improve service delivery at local level.
- ◎ Title 26 Amendment in process.



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THANK YOU